Moonbase

The family newsletter of the North Scott Elementary Schools

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Improve Education Through Parent Involvement

Ask five people how to improve education in America and you'll probably get five different answers. Among these might be better school funding, longer time on task, more basics or smaller classes. Yet there's one sure way to improve education that almost everyone will agree with: get parents involved.

More than 40 separate studies show that the key to improving student achievement is parent involvement in education. The National Parent-Teacher Association (PTA), which has been promoting parent involvement since its founding in 1897, has been joined in its crusade by every major education organization. Together they are working to convince America's parents that it's not enough to drop their children off at kindergarten and pick them up when they get their high school diplomas...if they get their diplomas.

Parent involvement takes many forms. It can be as simple as letting your children know that you think school is important, or making sure they do their homework, or reading to them at night. You can also get involved in the school by monitoring school board meetings, keeping track of legislation that will affect your children's schools and working with the PTA.

The National PTA has a program titled, "School Is What WE Make It!" We should keep that theme in mind as we search for ways to give our children the best education possible.

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North Scott Elementary Parent Council

The North Scott Elementary Parent Council is a brand new organization this year. The group held it's first meeting in July. Representatives from all five elementaries were present.

The idea behind this group is positive and hopeful. Each elementary is a gold mine full of ideas, projects and events waiting to happen. It is hoped that this group will be able to bridge the communication gap and bring our district closer. The group plans to share ideas and events to make every elementary in the North Scott district the best it can be.

This group also plans to be a sounding board for administration, and a means of disseminating accurate information out to all parents in the district.

The group will meet every other month from September to May. These meetings will float between the five elementaries, giving an opportunity to visit all the schools in the district.

Following is a list of the remaining EPC meetings for the 89-90 school year. All meetings begin at 7 pm and are open to the public.

Tuesday, November 21-Alan Shepard, Long Grove

Monday, January 15- Edward White, Eldridge

Monday, March 19- Virgil Grissom, Princeton

Monday, May 21- John Glenn, Donahue

Neil Armstrong, Park View

The parent organization of Neil Armstrong was reorganized into a PTA last spring. The organization has given us a tremendous influx of information and project ideas concerning legislative activities, parenting education, health and safety issues and cultural arts. We have always had strong support from our parents for volunteer programs at school and fund-raising activities and now we are excited about implimenting new projects.

The commitment to PTA has been overwhelming with approximately 80 members thus far. We would like to extend thanks to our teachers for their support to PTA and special thanks to Denny Albertson, principal, for his readiness to adopt PTA projects and for the hours of time he has devoted to our group.

For our first official PTA meeting, we sponsored an ice cream social, attended by Dr. DeLuca, school board members, and school board candidates. Our open house and pizza party were a huge success. Thanks to John Glenn and Alan Shepard for their recommendations on the pizza party. It helps to know what has already worked. Other fall activities include ballroom dancing in the Neil Armstrong gym, safety activities, and participation in American Education Week.

Although we have 346 very special students at Armstrong, we would like to recognize Stacy Boedecker, a fifth grade student who saved her choking pre-school sister this summer. She learned life saving training from a Red Cross Babysitting course. Well done Stacy!

Expanded Learning Program

Neil Armstrong is very excited about one of their latest projects. The Expanded Learning Program or ELP, is an idea which was born from one of many brainstorming sessions with PTA executive board members. The ELP will open the Armstrong library up to all Park View students for evening use. Students from kindergarten to high school will be welcome to come and use the facilities availble in the media center. All resource material will be available to help with those last minute reports. Parent monitors will be on hand to assist. Systems 80 will also be open for practice. It is hoped that in the near future the computers and printer will be available for practice, as well as doing reports and projects.

The library will be open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30pm to 8:30pm.

Read- Aloud Presentation

Neil Armstrong principal Denny Albertson and PTA officers Shellee Statser and Judy Kietzman were invited to speak at a PTO meeting at Muscatine's Mulberry School on Tuesday, September 26.

Mulberry's principal, Nancy Thornton, asked the three to give a presentation about the school's "Read Aloud Night" held last April.

Thornton was the guest storyteller at "Read Aloud", which showed parents and children the joys and benefits of reading aloud to one another.

Because Armstrong has been approached by several Quad-City schools about this special evening, they have put together a handbook which gives pertinent information in organizing this event. They are available to anyone who is interested.

Virgil Grissom, Princeton

Virgil Grissom did not submit information for this issue of the Moonbase. Be sure and look for them in future issues.

John Glenn, Donahue

Happy October from John Glenn in Donahue. Fall is definitely in the air here! Everyone is still abuzz over our first ever Octoberfest, held Saturday, October 7th. It proved to be a successful, fun-filled evening for all. After dining on a traditional "Octoberfest" meal of brats, hot potatoe salad, sauerkraut and baked beans, guests strolled through a dessert garden. Music was featured all night, as well as a fall harvest bazaar and raffle. It was a great community event!

John Glenn's Instructional Media Center is in full swing. With a volunteer staff of sixteen, the center operates smoothly day to day. On Friday, September 29th, the first batch of twenty books were published and presented to the talented authors. Volunteers assist the students in their book making and with other media materials. Everyone involved, students and volunteers, enjoy the "IMC Center".

The month promises to be full as always and we'll wind up with our annual Halloween Parade on Tuesday, October 31st at 1 pm. All pre-school "spooks and goblins" are invited to march through Donahue with the school kids to scare the wits out of us all! You never know... there's always some moms and dads who come "dressed" for the occasion!

Have a Spook-tacular Halloween!

Edward White, Eldridge

The 1989-90 school year began at Ed White with 391 students enrolled. This was an increase of four from last spring. Forty-one of this number are new students. This year's first day of school was quite anxiously and eagerly awaited by students, parents and teachers alike. After 20 years, we would find a new face in our principal's office. What changes could we expect from Mr. John Langenhan? With a month of school behind us, most everyone would agree that things are much more the same than different. Education continues at Ed White with the same enthusiasm and competence we have come to know. One first grader remarked that Mr. Langenhan was not quite as "chubby" as our former principal, but we have found he has the necessary heft to do the job.

Writing Center News

On Wednesday, September 27th the Ed White Writing Center opened it's doors to representatives from the writing centers of the other North Scott Elementary Schools. This was an opportunity for the five elementaries to learn from each other, borrow ideas and help bring about a successful year for all the writing centers in the district.

The PTA at Ed White is currently working on a directory of Ed White students that will contain a listing of the names of the children, along with their parents names, addresses and phone numbers. It is hoped that this directory, which will be available only to parents with children at Ed White, will help parents contact and get to know the parents of their children's classmates.

Another Successful Open House

The Ed White Open House held September 21st was an extremely successful and well attended evening. New this year, were 15 minute presentations given in the classrooms by the teachers in grades two through six. Parents learned about their child's daily schedule, areas being studied and what types of homework and assignments to expect at that grade level. There was also an opportunity to socialize in the gym with cookies, popcorn made by the student council, coffee, juice and milk.

Alan Shepard, Long Grove

When you walk through the doors at Alan Shepard, one might get the impression we are "relaxing". However, our new park bench in our lobby is the result of hard work and combined efforts of our students. One hundred and ten pounds of milk jugs have been brought to school for recycling, so recently we were presented with the bench made from the recycled milk jugs.

At our recent PTO meeting, we decided to join the ranks of PTA. We are excited about this move, and are looking forward to "expanding our horizons".

Our tummys are full and our minds are expanding, thanks to Slagles Supermarkets. We recently received our new computer, and we are well on our way to earning a second!

All of us at Shepard send our warmest thanks to the family of Molly Ann Santee for the new addition to our playground. Our special memories of Molly will remain in our hearts forever. Rest assured, we will all "remember and smile".

Moonwalks for the Entire Family

Brought to you by the Neil Armstrong Cultural Arts Committee

Quad-City Brass Quintet
November 19
DeWitt Opera House
Call 1-659-8213 for ticket information

Quad City Regional Art Show
Through November 26
326-7804

Indoor Fine Arts Fair
December 2 and 3
(artwork for sale)

Haitian Art Show
December 10

Quad-City Symphony
322-0931

Series Concerts
Adler Theater
November 4 8pm
Centennial Hall
November 5 2pm

Nutcracker Ballet
Adler Theater
November 18 7pm
November 19 2pm

Quad City Youth Symphony
Southpark by Penney's
December 9 2pm

A Christmas Story
Galvin Fine Arts Center
December 1 and 2 7:30pm
December 3 3pm
$5 adult $2.50 child
383-8775

Festival of Trees
November 18-26
Davenport River Center

Halloween Hollow
October 26-31
Weekdays noon to 9pm
Saturday 10-6 Sunday noon to 5
Ages two to ten (Must be accompanied by an adult)
Admission $1.50 (Museum Members $1)

Continuing Classes

Lincoln Center for the Cultural Arts, Bettendorf
355-8626

Davenport Art Gallery
326-7804

Bettendorf Children's Museum
activities for preschoolers, K-6 and Kid's Club
344-4106

GRISSOM GRIZZLY'S NEWS

"GRAB A BALLOON AND FLY TO THE MOON" will be the theme for Grissom's school carnival Saturday, November 11 from 3-7 p.m. There will be a community meal-hog roast, children's games, a silent auction, and a raffle.

So, mark your calendars, and bring your family for an evening of good food and fun!

Grissom's parents association has also joined the National PTA. Our volunteer association seeks to unite home, school and community in promoting the education, health and safety of children. Local support is most important and everyone is welcome to join. Our children are our future. Let's all try to work together toward this goal.

Grissom's news items missed the print deadline for the Moonbase. We felt this information was too important to be left out. Since this is our first newsletter, many obstacles have been encountered, so we have added this additional page. It is hoped that future issues will come out with everyone in the four page layout.